

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT TACOMA

CLAYTON ERNEST LONGACRE,

CASE NO. C18-5185 BHS

Plaintiff,

V.

BRANDON L. MEYERS, et al.,

ORDER GRANTING IN PART
AND DENYING IN PART
DEFENDANTS' MOTION TO
DISMISS AND REMANDING

Defendants.

This matter comes before the Court on Kitsap County, Kitsap County Sheriff's

Department, Kitsap County Prosecutor's Office, Steve Boyer, Russ Hauge, Deputy

Brandon L. Meyers, Deputy Kurtis Lont, Deputy Jason Hedstrom, Deputy Sonya K.

Matthews, Deputy Miller, Deputy Prosecutor Emily Jarchow Goodell, Barbara O.

I. PROCEDURAL AND FACTUAL BACKGROUND

On March 5, 2018, Plaintiff Clayton Longacre (“Longacre”) filed a complaint in Pierce County Superior Court for the State of Washington asserting numerous causes of action against numerous defendants. Dkt. 1-1. Longacre’s claims arise out of a dispute

1 with a mechanic, Defendant Jacob Syring (“Syring”), that Longacre hired to work on
2 three watercraft. *Id.* ¶ 3.02. When Longacre appeared at Syring’s house to take
3 possession of the watercraft, a dispute arose regarding payment and Syring’s
4 performance. *Id.* ¶¶ 3.11–3.13. The dispute escalated to a physical altercation with both
5 parties contacting the police. *Id.* ¶¶ 3.14–3.17. On the evening of December 12, 2014,
6 deputies with the Kitsap County Sheriff’s office arrested Longacre and filed charges for
7 assault and harassment. *Id.* ¶ 3.25.

8 On Monday December 15, 2014, Longacre posted bail and was released. *Id.* ¶ at
9 9, ¶ 3.18. That afternoon, Syring contacted the police alleging that Longacre had made a
10 threatening call to Syring and sent threatening texts. *Id.* at 10 ¶ 3.20 (second ¶ 3.20 on
11 the page). Later that evening, Kitsap deputies arrested Longacre on charges of
12 intimidating a witness and harassment. *Id.* at 10–11, ¶¶ 3.22–3.25. Longacre alleges that
13 the prosecutor refused to prosecute the initial charges and eventually dismissed the
14 second set of charges without prejudice.

15 On March 9, 2018, the Kitsap County Defendants removed the matter to this Court
16 under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1441(a), (c). Dkt. 1.

17 On March 20, 2018, Kitsap County Defendants filed a motion to dismiss. Dkt. 7.
18 On April 23, 2018, Longacre responded. Dkt. 23. On May 4, 2018, Kitsap County
19 Defendants replied. Dkt. 31.

II. DISCUSSION

A. Dismissal

In this case, the Kitsap County Defendants argue that the Court should dismiss Longacre's § 1983 claims because they are barred by the statute of limitations. The parties do not dispute that (1) Longacre was arrested and jailed in December 2014, (2) the charges were dismissed against Longacre on February 4, 2015, (3) Longacre served his complaint on certain Defendants on February 10, 2018, and (4) the statute of limitations for § 1983 claims is three years. Thus, it appears from the face of the complaint that Longacre's claims are barred because he commenced this action more than three years after the actions giving rise to his claims. Longacre, however, argues that the Court should apply the continuing violation rule and the discovery rule to toll the statute of limitations. Neither of Longacre's arguments have merit.

First, under federal law, a principle known as the “discovery rule” dictates that a cause of action accrues on the date “when the plaintiff knows or has reason to know of the injury which is the basis of the action.” *Lukovsky v. City and Cty. of S.F.*, 535 F.3d 1044, 1048 (9th Cir. 2008). As the Supreme Court has noted, “discovery of the injury, not discovery of the other elements of a claim, is what starts the clock.” *Rotella v. Wood*, 528 U.S. 549, 555 (2000).

Under this standard, Longacre knew or had reason to know of his injuries in December 2014. Longacre's illegal search and seizure claims, false arrest claims, and false imprisonment claims are all based on injuries that occurred in December 2014 when he was arrested. Similarly, his claims for failure to allow access to the phone and library

1 while in custody occurred while he was in jail in December 2014. Longacre's failure to
2 train officers also stems from his arrests in December 2014. Regarding Longacre's
3 claims for failure to train prosecutors, these claims arose when the prosecutors filed the
4 charges against Longacre. He even filed a motion to dismiss the charges for lack of
5 probable cause, which establishes that he knew or had reason to know of his injuries well
6 before he "discovered" that the charges had been dismissed. The Monell liability claim
7 stems from the same conduct and was likewise discoverable in December 2014.
8 Therefore, the Court finds that, based on the allegations in the complaint, Longacre knew
9 or had reason to know of his injuries well before the applicable date of February 10,
10 2015.

11 Second, Longacre fails to provide any authority for the proposition that the
12 continuing violation rule applies to these § 1983 claims. Longacre cites one authority to
13 support the doctrine, Dkt. 23 at 17, but fails to cite any authority for the proposition that
14 the doctrine applies in any context other than employment discrimination. Moreover,
15 Longacre's argument is suspect. He claims that the violation continues until the statute
16 of limitations runs on the charges that were dismissed without prejudice. Dkt. 23 at 18.
17 The doctrine isn't based on the threat of an adverse action, it is based on actual
18 discriminatory actions that continue into the limitations period. Therefore, the Court
19 finds that the continuing violation doctrine does not apply to § 1983 claims, and even if
20 there was a reasonable basis to consider the doctrine in this case, Longacre's position is
21 without merit because it relies on the threat of an injury instead of an actual injury.

1 In sum, Longacre's § 1983 claims are barred by the statute of limitations based on
2 the face of the complaint. Longacre fails to establish any reason that the limitations
3 period should be tolled or otherwise not apply to bar his claims. Therefore, the Court
4 grants the Kitsap County Defendants' motion to dismiss these claims with prejudice.

5 **B. Remand**

6 "If at any time before final judgment it appears that the district court lacks subject
7 matter jurisdiction, the case shall be remanded." 28 U.S.C. § 1447(c). After dismissal of
8 the § 1983 claims, the Court lacks subject matter jurisdiction over the remaining state law
9 claims between non-diverse parties, and the case must be remanded.

10 **III. ORDER**

11 Therefore, it is hereby **ORDERED** that the Kitsap County Defendants' motion to
12 dismiss (Dkt. 7) is **GRANTED in part** and **DENIED in part**. Longacre's § 1983 claims
13 are time-barred and **DISMISSED with prejudice**. The Clerk shall enter a partial
14 judgment, remand this matter to Pierce County Superior Court, remove the pending
15 motions from the Court's calendar, and close the case.

16 Dated this 21st day of May, 2018.

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BENJAMIN H. SETTLE
United States District Judge